



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILLIAM S. MOORHEAD FEDERAL BUILDING
1000 LIBERTY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-4186

Natural and Cultural
Resources Section

April 29, 2003

The Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under the authority of Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended, has the responsibility to oversee the design and construction of the Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania waterline extension project. The proposed project will allow the local sponsor, Jefferson Township, to provide drinking water and fire protection services to a 77-bed elderly care home and approximately 20 residences. Presently, the water is supplied from wells, cisterns, and its quality and quantity is unreliable. The Fire Department must travel an extended distance to offer support to this rural area. The proposed project will allow the local sponsor to meet federal and state safe drinking water and fire safety standards and have adequate pressure, water quality, and supply to meet their needs.

The District evaluated the environmental and cultural impacts associated with the proposed work and have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate Federal, state and local resource agencies and there are no significant, unresolved issues. Thus, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted. Along with the EA, the District prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This letter serves as a 'Notice of Availability' of the signed FONSI. If the reviewer would like more information, please visit <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/> or contact Mr. Sam Smith at (412) 395-7217.

Sincerely,

Craig D. Cicconi
Chief, Natural and Cultural
Resources Section
Planning Branch
Project Management Division
Pittsburgh District
United States Army Corps of Engineers

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
SECTION 313 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
WATERLINE PROJECT**

1. Under the authority of Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended, the Pittsburgh District is overseeing the design and construction of the Jefferson Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania waterline project. The proposed project will allow the local sponsor, Jefferson Township, to provide drinking water and fire protection services along approximately 7,500 l.f. of a 6-inch water distribution line and five fire hydrants to approximately 20 properties including a 77-bed elderly care home. Presently, these properties rely on water supplied from wells and cisterns. Their water quality and water quantity is not reliable. The proposed project will allow the Township to meet federal and state safe drinking water and fire safety standards and have adequate pressure, water quality, and supply to meet their needs.
2. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared by Sucevic, Piccolomini, and Kuchar Engineering, Inc. of Uniontown, PA. for the local sponsor (Enclosure 1). It includes four alternatives for consideration including: 1) No Action (continue using the wells and/or haul water); 2) Water supply line smaller than 6 inches 3) Water supply line larger than 6 inches and 4) the recommended plan to install a 6-inch waterline and fire hydrants to solve the problem. The recommended plan is the most economically feasible alternative based on the engineer's investigation and meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act.
3. The District has reviewed the EA for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The EA's purpose is to identify potential environmental and cultural resources adversely affected by the proposed project. The requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and other appropriate environmental laws and statutes are part of the NEPA compliance process and reflected in the EA. No potential adverse effects were found with respect to land use, soils, air and water quality, fish and wildlife, farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, geologic conditions, surface and groundwater resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; hazardous, toxic, and radioactive substances; historic and archeological resources; prime and unique farmlands; wild and scenic rivers; aesthetics, transportation, socio-economic issues and noise. A Notice of Availability will be provided to the public and interested parties to review the EA and FONSI.
4. Based on a thorough evaluation of all beneficial and adverse impacts in the EA, I do not anticipate any significant adverse impacts on the environment. The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate federal and state resource agencies and there are no important, unresolved issues. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the NEPA. Therefore, I have concluded that the public interest will be served by implementation of this proposed Federal action and an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

15 April 2003

Date

Raymond K. Scrocco

RAYMOND K. SCROCCO
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer